

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4751

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DACCA 4967/1

SECTO 262

FOR DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND
NESSEN

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.5

SUBJECT : EXCHANGE OF DINNER TOASTS BETWEEN BANGLADESH
FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN AND SECRETARY
KISSINGER IN DACCA OCTOBER 30, 1974

1. TRANSCRIPT OF FOREIGN MINISTER HOSSAIN'S TOAST FOLLOWS:

QUOTE IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO EXTEND ON BEHALF
OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH A WARM WELCOME
TO YOU, TO MRS. KISSINGER AND TO THE MEMBERS OF YOUR DELEGATION
ON YOUR FIRST VISIT TO BANGLADESH. WE ARE INDEED HAPPY THAT YOU
HAVE FOUND TIME, DESPITE YOUR MANY PREOCCUPATIONS, TO COME
TO BANGLADESH, SOON AFTER THE RECENT MEETING IN WASHINGTON
BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND OUR PRIME MINISTER BANGABANDHU
SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN, AND OUR MEETING IN NEW YORK, WHEN WE
WERE ABLE TO NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE STEADY DEVELOPMENT OF
FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. YOUR VISIT TO
BANGLADESH WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH WE BOTH VALUE.

THE BENGALIEE PEOPLE HAVE KNOWN OF THE GOODWILL AND
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FRIENDLY FEELINGS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE FOR THEM.

INDEED WE RECALL WITH APPRECIATION THE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING MANY OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS, DURING THE DIFFICULT DAYS OF OUR LIBERATION STRUGGLE. WE, THEREFORE, WELCOMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS SOON AFTER LIBERATION, AND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUABLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE EXTENDED TO US SINCE LIBERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE EMERGENCE OF SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT BANGLADESH WAS A FULFILMENT OF THE ASPIRATION OF THE BENGALEE PEOPLE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM. INDEPENDENCE MEANT FOR THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOVER FROM CENTURIES OF NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION. THE LUXURIANT GREEN OF BANGLADESH REFLECTS THE INNATE FERTILITY OF OUR LAND. YET TODAY OUR PEOPLE ARE PREY TO STARVATION AND SUFFER FROM THE SCOURGES OF POVERTY, HUNGER, DISEASE, ILLITERACY AND UNEMPLOYMENT. OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY UPON INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN TO HARNESS THE RESOURCES, WITH WHICH NATURE HAD ENDOWED US AND WHICH REMAINED UNEXPLOITED, DUE TO THE INVESTMENTS NECESSARY FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT HAVING BEEN DENIED IN THE PAST. OUR FERTILE LAND, GIVEN INVESTMENTS IN IRRIGATION AND INPUTS, HAS THE LATENT POTENTIAL FOR A THREE TO FOUR FOLD INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION, WHICH TOGETHER WITH PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDING DEPOSITS OF NATURAL GAS, OUR FORESTS, AND OUR FISH-ERIES, WOULD PROVIDE THE FOUNDATIONS OF A SELF-RELIANT ECONOMY. THIS TASK HAS BEEN MADE ENORMOUSLY DIFFICULT BY THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL INFLATION, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A STEEP ESCALATION OF THE COST OF DEVELOPMENT. THE SITUATION HAS BEEN FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY THE DEVASTATING FLOODS THAT WE EXPERIENCED THIS YEAR. THE LIMITS OF ENDURANCE OF A PEOPLE HAVE HARDLY BEEN TESTED AS THOSE OF THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH. YET THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED, AND CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE, THEIR STRONG DETERMINATION TO CONTEND AGAINST ADVERSITY AND TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, HAS PROVIDED VALUABLE SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF OUR PEOPLE. INDEED SUCH SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR EFFORTS TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

WE HAVE STEADFASTLY PURSUED AN INDEPENDENT, NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY, SEEKING TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES, ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, EQUALITY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE HAVE REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IN OUR SUB-CONTINENT, IN OUR REGION AND IN THE WORLD. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, APPRECIATED, MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, YOUR EFFORTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF DETENTE AND THE EASING OF TENSIONS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT LASTING PEACE MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN CONSONANCE WITH THE JUST

ASPIRATIONS OF OUR ARAB BRETHREN, INCLUDING THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE. WE, WHO REPRESENT THE POOR AND UNDER-PRIVILEGED MAJORITY OF MANKIND, LOOK FORWARD TO THE CREATION OF AN ENDURING STRUCTURE OF PEACE IN THE WORLD, SO THAT VALUABLE RESOURCES MAY BE RELEASED FOR PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. INVOLVED AS WE ARE IN FIGHTING CONTINUING BATTLES IN THE GLOBAL WAR AGAINST HUNGER, WE HAVE APPRECIATED THE CONTRIBUTION YOU HAVE MADE IN FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM OF FOOD, AND IN PROPOSING A WORLD CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL RESULT IN A MEANINGFUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO MEET ONE OF THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS OF OUR TIMES.

CONSISTENTLY WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE, WE HAVE STRIVEN TO PROMOTE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DURABLE PEACE IN OUR SUB-CONTINENT. WE ARE FORTUNATE IN HAVING THE BEST OF RELATIONS WITH OUR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS. WE HAVE MADE OUR MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS PROMOTING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. WE REMAIN READY TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS THIS GOAL THROUGH SOLUTION OF THE REMAINING OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS, IN A SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY AND MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION. WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS APPRECIATED OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION IN OUR SUB-CONTINENT.

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INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, YOUR VISIT HAS PROVIDED A

VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD USEFUL DISCUSSIONS, WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE APPRECIATED YOUR ASSURANCE THAT YOUR GREAT COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO EXTEND VALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO US IN PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND BANGLADESH WILL CONTINUE TO GROW TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES.

EXCELLENCY. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MAY I NOW REQUEST YOU TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE HEALTH, LONG LIFE AND HAPPINESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO THE HEALTH, LONG LIFE AND HAPPINESS OF OUR HONORED GUEST, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND MRS. KISSINGER, AND TO THE WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. END QUOTE

2. TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY'S RESPONSE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, MRS. HOSSAIN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS: WHEN I SAW ALL THESE MICROPHONES BROUGHT AND PLACED IN FRONT OF US, I SAID TO MY FRIEND THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF US HAD BETTER SAY SOMETHING INTELLIGENT AND I AM GLAD TO KNOW THAT HE HAS ALREADY RELIEVED ME OF ANY BURDENS THAT I MAY HAVE WITH HIS ELOQUENT TOAST. IT IS OF COURSE DIFFICULT TO RESPOND TO SOMEONE WHO SPEAKS ENGLISH BETTER THAN I DO.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GREAT PLEASURE AT BEING THE FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE TO VISIT BANGLADESH AND IT IS A PARTICULAR PRIVILEGE FOR ME BECAUSE YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER WHOM I KNEW AT HARVARD GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW MY ACQUAINTANCE WITH HIM FIRST IN NEW YORK AND THEN HERE, AND SEVERAL OTHER FORMER COLLEAGUES FROM HARVARD HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED TO THIS OCCASION. BUT ABOVE ALL I AM MOVED TO BE HERE BECAUSE IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT ONE CAN VISIT A COUNTRY WHOSE COURAGE AND SUFFERING EARNED ITS INDEPENDENCE IN A SO RECENT PAST AND WHICH SYMBOLIZES SO MUCH THE NECESSITIES OF OUR PERIOD.

BANGLADESH HAS GONE, IN TEN YEARS, FROM DEPENDENCE TO INDEPENDENCE AND NOW TO INTERDEPENDENCE. IN THE LAST CENTURY WHEN NEW NATIONS CAME INTO BEING THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD THEN LIVE A SELF-CONTAINED EXISTENCE AND GIVEN THE ECONOMIES OF THAT PERIOD THAT WAS A REASONABLE ASPIRATION. BUT BANGLADESH CAME INTO BEING, AS YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER HAS POINTED OUT, AFTER CENTURIES OF SUFFERING, AT THE PRECISE MOMENT WHEN NO NATION COULD BY ITS OWN METHODS ACHIEVE THE ASPIRATIONS OF ITS PEOPLE. ALL NATIONS, HOWEVER RICH, HOWEVER

LONG ESTABLISHED, HAVE HAD TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THE REALITY THAT ALL OF US CAN ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES ONLY BY A COMMON EFFORT OR NOT AT ALL.

AND SO THIS COUNTRY HAS FOUND ITSELF IN A SITUATION OF INCREASING POPULATION, IN A WORLD OF RISING PRICES, AND HAVING TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS SHARED THE ASPIRATIONS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND PROGRESS OF BANGLADESH AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE, TO SOME SMALL EXTENT, TO THE REALIZATION OF BANGLADESH'S HOPES. WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT A WORLD IN WHICH CHILDREN GO HUNGRY IS AN INTOLERABLE WORLD AND ALL OF US, AND ALL NATIONS, FACE THE PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE CHALLENGE OF FOOD. OF COURSE, SURPLUS COUNTRIES CAN HELP BUT THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION MUST BE IN INCREASING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE DEFICIT COUNTRIES AND WE AGREE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER
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THAT IN THIS RESPECT THE POTENTIAL OF BANGLADESH HAS ONLY BEGUN TO BE TAPPED. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BE READY TO COOPERATE WITH THE DEFICIT COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY WITH ESTABLISHED FRIENDS LIKE BANGLADESH IN ACHIEVING THIS ASPIRATION.

IN OUR TALKS THIS AFTERNOON WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE RANGE OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF BANGLADESH AND TO SEE IN WHAT WAY THE EFFORTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES COULD BE MOBILIZED TO HELP REALIZE THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. WE AGREE THAT IT IS BETTER TO MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT THAN TO STAGGER ON FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS OVERCOMING ONLY THE SYMPTOMS.

AS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL GOALS STATED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THEY ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF MY COUNTRY FOR A WORLD OF DIVERSITY BASED ON RESPECT FOR NATIONAL DIGNITY AND OPERATING ON THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION. WE HOPE THAT WHATEVER DISAGREEMENTS REMAIN ON THE SUBCONTINENT CAN BE RESOLVED IN THAT SAME SPIRIT. AND WE HAVE APPLAUDED THE GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT WHICH BANGLADESH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THIS AREA. THE UNITED STATES, WHENEVER IT CAN, WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE PEACE, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, IN THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WE KNOW THAT THOSE COUNTRIES THAT CANNOT ALWAYS PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL SUSTAIN US WITH THEIR GOOD WISHES.

SO I WANT TO SAY THAT MY VISIT HERE HAS BEEN TOO SHORT. I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE WARMTH OF BENGALIAN HOSPITALITY. I HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED TO RENEW MY

ACQUAINTANCE WITH SO MANY OLD FRIENDS AND TO HAVE MET SO
MANY NEW ONES. I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO HAVE MY
TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO HAD MADE A PROFOUND
IMPRESSION ALREADY WHEN WE MET IN NEW YORK AND WHO HAD
A VERY GOOD AND, I BELIEVE, VERY FRUITFUL TALK WITH
PRESIDENT FORD. SO IN BRINGING YOU THE GOOD WISHES OF
OUR PRESIDENT I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT
OF BANGLADESH, TO THE PRIME MINISTER, TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER
AND TO THE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO PEOPLES. END QUOTE
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